

# The Grapevine

Bulletin of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association

May 2006 Volume 10, Issue 5

## Playscape gardens have kids at heart

The gardens at the Saginaw Township Playscape have matured since they were first installed in 2000 — but they're still all about children.

The project began when some Master Gardeners went to Arrowwood Elementary School to talk about gardening, says Amy Fitkin, one of the gardens' creators.

"Then they came to the Playscape in busloads and we showed them how to plant. We planted things that would interest children," Fitkin explains.

Master Gardeners who haven't seen the project in some years have the chance this month for the May meeting and spring plant exchange. (See related story, this page.)

Located south of State Street on Lawndale Road, the Saginaw Township park draws youngsters, their parents and grandparents when the weather is nice.

"And the township has added more picnic tables so people go there to eat on their

lunch hours," said Fitkin, who once lived nearby.

"My children call it the Castle park with its wooden turrets. The children at Arrowwood helped design it and tried to reflect their personalities and backgrounds in the structures."

Made mostly of wood, there is a crawl-through spider, a crawl-through engine block "because so many of their parents worked at GM and a lot of other car things."

There's also a map of Michigan and tiles of the children's hand prints as decorations.

"When we first put in the garden there was one by the restroom, planted to look like a flag with red and white

petunias and some blue ones, too," Fitkin explains.

"At the other end, we put in a lot of sunflowers — and a lot of them came up,



The Saginaw Township Playscape in spring bloom.

### Next meeting

- 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, at the Saginaw Township Playscape, on Lawndale, south of State Street in Saginaw Township
- 7 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. business meeting
- 7:30 p.m. — 8 p.m. refreshments
- 8 p.m. — 9 p.m. Plant exchange, view garden
- **NO GUESTS!!!**
- **Please wear your badge and bring a chair — there is limited seating at the park.**

although not all of them — along with some Karl Forester grasses in a circle surrounded by some Japanese blood grass. "A major change in the garden came in 2003 when project chairmen Debbie Doud and Deb Keller expanded the garden and added walking paths to invite the children to look closer at the plantings.

"They added a bird bath and a log bench, which all 'disappeared,' even the broken pot they had in there disap

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## Bring your plants for spring exchange

It's that time of year again — to divide plants and share your bounty with members of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association.

Members anxiously await this day because it provides the opportunity to obtain new and different plants free.

You do not have to have plants to participate, but you must be a certified Master Gardener and a member of SVMGA.

Those who plan on bringing plants should pot them up and plan on arriving a little early to put them out.

Please remember to label each plant with the botanical and/or common name, light requirements, height, color, — all the essentials — so that the new owners

will know exactly what they are getting.

It also is helpful to know which plants are "enthusiastic" in their growth pattern, or invasive, just in case that's not what a Master Gardener is looking for. However, some MGs may be looking for that plant to fill an area..

After a short business meeting, the exchange begins.

Each member will receive a ticket upon arrival and when your number is called, your group is free to choose a plant. The process is repeated until each group has chosen plants and all the plants are gone.

Don't forget to bring a chair!

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# Boehler's previews its new perennial offerings

A new array of perennials are available this spring at Boehler's Greenhouses.

The 45 plants debuted at the May meeting of Gardening for Gents at the Saginaw Township business, South Center and Swan Creek roads. They are:

- Achilles Gold Coin Dwarf, 15" tall.
- Anchusa Loddon Royalist, true blue flower, 15-18" tall, full sun.
- Bergenia Rois Klose, pink rebloomer, mid-spring to frost, 12" tall.
- Buddleia Santana, yellow and green leaf, purple flower, 6-8' tall.
- Columbine Clementine Red, double flower, like clematis.
- Calamagrostis Eldorado, variegated yellow-green feather grass, full sun.
- Columbine Winky Double Red White, yellow buds, 12-18" tall, full sun.
- Columbine Dove, profuse bloomer, white flowers.
- Campanala Milkshake, 16" tall, variegated leaf, green speckled bell flower.
- Campanala Little Punky, 18" tall, cherry red speckled bell flower.
- Campanala Camgood, purple flower,

8-10" tall.

- Campanala White Bells, 18" tall, flowers rise above plant, hang down.
- Coreopsis Heavens Gate, Lime Rock parent, 16-24" tall, pink, deeper at center.
- Dianthus Firewitch, Perennial Plant of the Year, clove scent, pink flower, reblooms.
- Erigeron Sea Breeze, 8-12" tall, overwinter dry area, blooms in spring & fall.
- Euphorbia First Blush, rosy pink margins on leaf, 12-15" tall, variegated leaf.
- Gaillardia Arizona Sun, 8-10" tall, big bloomer, yellow edged orange flower.
- Gaillardia Oranges & Lemons, orange tips on yellow flower, full sun
- Geum Blazing Sunset, 24" tall, large double red flower, spring to mid-summer.
- Geum Fireball, 24" tall, double orange flower, strawberry leaf, sun to part shade.
- Helenium Double Trouble, 30" tall, bright yellow flower, full sun, July -Oct.
- Helenium Ruby Tuesday, dark red flower, compact plant, 20" tall.

- Helenium Sahins Early Flower, 36" tall, orange to yellow flower, full sun.
- Helenium Blue Lady, plum flower, 20" tall, full shade, early to mid-spring.
- Hemerocallis Black Stockings, 24" tall, purple flower with yellow center.
- Heuchera Hollywood, pink flower, repeat bloomer, red leaf, 8" tall.
- Heuchera Sparkling Burgundy, shines in garden, 7" tall, large leaf.
- Heuchera Purple Petticoats, fast grower, nearly black leaf.
- Iris Siberica Silver Edge, purple flower, 36" tall, full to partial sun.
- Lavandala Hidcotpink, light pink flower, green foliage.
- Leucanthemum Brightside, 32" tall, white flower, vigorous grower.
- Nepeta Kit Cat, 18" tall, full sun.
- Nipponanthemum, fall flowering, needs dry winter conditions, white flower with yellow center.

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## Paths allow children to see plants up close...

*Continues from Page 1*

peared," Fitkin says.

"Deb Keller made a trough with a face and that had to be chained down so no one would walk off with it.

"For a long time we had cannas planted, but we've tried to move to more perennials to cut down on buying annuals."

Planter boxes, formed out of the entrance posts, are filled with annuals each year.

"This year, the grape hyacinths we bought at the fall seminar were planted to be a smiley face, but so far only the purple ones have bloomed. The yellow ones are just starting to peek out now. We may have to rework that."

All watering, weeding and planting is done by Master Gardener volunteers.

"The sign out front says it's a project of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association so we should be sure it looks

like something we can take credit for," Fitkin says.

Watering and maintenance chores are done on a rotating weekly schedule, with volunteers signing up for as much as they want to do.

"I think now that Lawndale Road has opened up off State, it's a lot easier for people to find, rather than winding through subdivisions.

"The gardens keep changing. You know, it was just a cornfield with a big tree," she says.

"There are more trees and shrubs, all of which were donated. The only thing the township does is add compost and mulch.

"They've put in a sprinkler system but we were hesitant about extending it into the gardens at this point."

To volunteer, contact Debbie Doud at 284-6031 or dadoud@charter.net or Deb Keller at 781-1228 or HelliKeller@aol.com.

### Officers for 2005-06

*President*

**Grey Gitzen 792-0615**

*Vice President*

**Nancy Hales 799-2118**

*Secretary*

**Anne Birkam 754-7090**

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**MSU Extension**

**One Tuscola Street**

**Saginaw, MI 48607-1287**

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### Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association mission statement

"Joining together as Master Gardeners, our mission is to promote our enthusiasm and knowledge of gardening by a wide variety of educational and volunteer activities in a spirit of fun and friendship."

## Letter from the President

Gardening in USDA Zone 5 brings disappointment, surprises, and the wonder of volunteering.

Each day when I walk in our garden in spring I'm looking for particular plants I knew were marginal when I planted them, even though the grower cautioned me they were only hardy to Zone 6.

The surprise is when I find a green sprout that is telling me I managed to overwinter a plant that is really not suited for the Saginaw Valley, and likewise the disappointment when I find only bare spots where my experiment went awry; or worse, I discover a bare spot where an old friend had grown and bloomed for years. The surprises, like this spring, of finding a lovely soft pink primula that we didn't plant.

We have planted red, yellow, white, and magenta primroses, but never pink. The plant is great and I hope it volunteers

to repeat next spring.

Speaking of volunteers, why is it that the bulk of plants that volunteer are generally plants that are thugs?

We have a *Houttuynia cordata* Chameleon that has invaded an area once full of *Monarda didyma*, but has succumbed to the volunteer.

I will spend several hours trying to rid this particular bed of the pest and try to bring back the flowers I want.

The May meeting of the Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association is always interesting and one I look forward to attending.

The wide variety of pass-along plants that arrive for the annual exchange is a



sight to behold. I always have a difficult time making choices.

This is a great opportunity to increase your collection of perennials without the usual cost.

I already have several plants potted for my contribution.

If you are involved with a MSUE-approved project and are purchasing plants, be sure to check out Abele Greenhouses' offer. The discounts for Master Gardener projects is great.

Make sure you put a trip to the Children's Zoo at Celebration Square on your spring schedule. You are in for a special treat.

A number of your fellow Master Gardeners have been very busy getting the new exhibits landscaped and ready for

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## Bridgeport Historical Village gardens need some TLC

Master Gardeners in southern Saginaw County can earn volunteer hours at a new project — the Bridgeport Historical Society Gardens.

"We've begged, borrowed and brought some of our own plants to make these gardens," says Susan Lawcock, a Master Gardener Trainee and member of the local historical society.

The gardens were created to help landscape the four-acre Bridgeport Historical Village at 6190 Dixie Highway.

The site contains buildings from the township's past, including the Mihalik barn, now known as the William W. Schomaker Museum; the 1896 town hall; the Hannay house and an 1867 schoolhouse.

Another barn was reassembled on the site from Kawkawlin, and a gazebo was added for community concerts and wedding ceremonies.

A children's garden was created by chiBrucker Elementary School students and members of the Parent-Teacher Organization.



Sandy Lundy, left, and Susan Lawcock pause at the flagpole garden at the Bridgeport Historical Village.

Using railroad ties to make raised beds, the gardens usually contain herbs, vegetables, perennials, annuals and plants to draw butterflies and birds.

"There's a large garden behind the schoolhouse where we grow pumpkins and corn," said Sandy Lundy, Master Gardener Trainee and historical society member.

However, as the youngsters and their parents moved on, the garden has suffered from lack of attention.

Some local residents have adopted gardens, but much of the work is left to Lawcock and Lundy.

"We would really like to get some Master Gardeners involved and it is an approved project," said Lawcock.

Gardens available for adoption include the children's garden; the schoolhouse planters; the area around the museum and its planters; the beds on the side and around the porch of the town hall; the bed in front of the barn; the plantings around the gazebo and its ramp; the Hannay House front and side yards; and the flag triangle.

Work would include weeding, watering and planting from now through October.

"We're trying to add brick pathways as we can afford it," said Lawcock.

"Residents can buy them in honor of family or friends, or businesses and churches buy them as advertisements."

This summer the village will feature outdoor movies.

There's also a flea market Aug. 20, children's Halloween fest by local merchants and a Pioneer Christmas.

In addition, teachers can schedule a day for their students at the schoolhouse.

"There's an ice rink here and we're hoping to build a fire barn to house our antique fire engine," Lawcock says.

To volunteer, contact Lawcock at 777-4423 or moose2frog@hotmail.com or Lundy at 777-5328 or geo3san@aol.com.

*Story by Darlene Damp, editor*

## Odds and ends

### Zoo says 'thank you'

Thanks for all your help at the zoo. The weather cooperated. The pond is over half planted — warmer weather plants to come in May.

The zoo couldn't do it without YOU!

I hope everyone had as much fun as I did (so what about the sore muscles in the morning)!

Thanks again,

*Patti Decker,*

*Zoo Horticulture chairperson*

### Bay City Garden Club sponsors walk June 22

BAY CITY — Seven secret gardens in the Bay City area open to the public during the annual Bay City Garden Club's Garden Walk.

The walk is from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 prior to the walk and \$10 the day of the walk.

Proceeds go to the Disability Services Resource Center, formerly known as the Bay County Society for Crippled Children and Adults.

Box lunches, provided by the Bay City Country Club are available between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. for \$10 while quantities last.

Tickets are available at Abele's

Greenhouses and Boehler's Greenhouses in Saginaw; Batschke Garden Center, Bay Regional Medical Center Gift Shop, Begick Nursery, Herman Hiss and Co., Monitor Pharmacy, Bay Landscaping, My Secret Garden and Three French Hens in Bay County and Smith's of Midland.



### More funds approved for Master Gardener projects

Only \$300 in grants remain for Master Gardener projects after the SVMGA board approved six more requests this month.

The projects include: \$200 to purchase plants for the Shiawassee Wildlife Refuge; \$200 to purchase topsoil, shrubs and mulch for the new Merrill Park Boys and Girls Club; and \$200 to buy perennials and bulbs for the historic cottage gar-

den at the Bridgeport Historical Museum.

Also \$200 to buy mulch for the Merrill Elementary memorial garden; \$200 to purchase shrubs, perennials and mulch for the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra new headquarters; and \$200 to finish the edging started last year at the Saginaw Art Museum.

Get grant applications from board members. Requests are limited to \$200 per project.

### Saginaw Farmer's Market opens this month

Early Farmer's Market Days are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, May 26, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 27.

Members interested in volunteering at the Farmer's Market may contact Aileen Cowan at 865-8784 or scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net.

The Farmer's Market is approved for MSUE-directed hours.

### Greenhouse extends container planting for MGs

The Greenhouse in Bridgeport offers additional container planting sessions in May.

Please call owner Dave Sommers at 777-1880 for details. He will keep containers until the weather warms.

### Native plant sale May 27-28

MIDLAND — The Chippewa Nature Center, 400 S. Badour Road, will have a native plant sale May 27-28.

The sale is from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 27, and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 28.

Pay by cash, check or credit card. Two-inch pots are \$2 while ferns go for \$5. There is a wide variety of grasses and wildflowers. Trees, shrubs and woody vines also are available.

### Hosta group has fund-raisers

The Saginaw Valley Hosta Society will sell hostas at the Saginaw Farmers Market Friday, June 23 and at the Farm Market in East Tawas on Saturday, July 1.

More than 40 different cultivars, all sizes and colors, will be for sale. All pots are 4 inches or larger.

All are nursery-grown stock from three

of the top hosta growers in the country and one local supplier.

All stock is inspected and virus free. Prices will be below current retail prices.

Some of the cultivars available are: Diana Remembered, Spring Fling, Blue Mouse Ears, Cool Hand Luke, Earth Angel, Tick Tock, Blue Mammoth, June Fever, Fireworks, Remember Me, June, Maui Buttercup, Striptease, Guacamole.

Proceeds go to the local society's projects, like the shade and hosta garden at the Saginaw Zoo and hosta hillside at Hidden Lakes Garden and to bring in speakers for the group's meetings.

### Mailing list update?

New mailing lists were distributed at the April meeting.

Any updates should be sent to Darlene Damp for publication in The Grapevine. Members can then update their own mailing lists.

### June 5 field trip notice

Those people who want to sign up for the June 4 field trip to Matthaet Botanical Gardens and Great Lakes Roses need to call Amy Fitkin at 781-1670 to ensure they get a guided tour of the gardens and signed up for the class at Great Lakes Roses.

### Roses up and growing

A huge round of applause to the volunteers who disregarded the threatening weather and removed the heavy wet leaves to open the rose garden at the Andersen Enrichment Center.

They are Gus Schulwitz, Jim Meyer, Jan Meyer, Lynn Niederstadt, Kathy and Joe Leach, Eric Bryant, Kathy Morley, Joyce Schultz, Lynn Hauk, Margaret Jackson, Ken Mauer, Floyd Callison and Kathy Berger.

Thank you very much.

*Ben Pawlik*

### Help needed

Bob Schust is in need of someone to maintain flower beds from June to September.

It requires a minimum of weeding every couple of weeks. Contact Schust at 781-0473.

Next board meeting:  
**5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, at MSU Extension, 1 Tuscola**

Newsletter deadline:  
**Monday, June 12**

Send submissions to  
**Darlene Damp, editor,**  
**shrew@att.net**

View the newsletter at:  
**Web1.msue.msu.edu/**  
**mastergardener/saginaw/**

## Grey's letter...

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what I am sure will be a busy summer.

Go this spring so you can enjoy the new improvements at a leisurely pace without the crowds of summer.

Also, if you are looking for an area in which to accumulate volunteer hours, Patti Decker, the Zoo Horticulture Committee chair, can always use more volunteers.

By the time you read this issue of The Grapevine you will have received your invitation to the annual state Master Gardener Conference held on the campus of Michigan State University June 18-20.

This is a painless way to accumulate education hours while having a good time with several hundred gardening zealots, and to find out what's happening in the gardening community in Michigan.

The vending area is always full of unusual and unique products.

The Saginaw County contingent also manages to find time to get together and socialize.

I realize that this is a busy time for all of us as we gear up for the short growing season, but please take some time to smell the flowers you have worked so hard to grow.

Grey



Master Gardeners recently planted the rain gardens at the Children's Zoo — including Judy Henning, center, before her "swim" in the expanded pond.

# Volunteer opportunities!!!

## Saginaw Children's Zoo...

Volunteers can help with the plantings in the pond, around the pond and on the waterfall from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 20.

There is something for everyone no matter your skill level. If you don't want to get your feet wet, there are areas that still need to be cleaned up, weeded or prepared as new garden beds.

There will be a list in the sign-in book at the admission booth of other garden tasks that needs to be done.

Just sign your name when you cross off the completed task on the list and the date it was completed

For more information, contact Patti Decker, zoo horticulture chairperson, at 792-6633, home; 797-3478, work; or 860-0933, cell.

## Saginaw Art Museum...

Help with clean-up, planting and maintenance — and earn volunteer hours — at the historic gardens of the Saginaw Art Museum, 1226 N. Michigan.

Volunteers will meet from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 27, for planting; Saturday, June 10, for clean-up; Monday, July 3, for weeding and deadheading; Saturday, Aug. 5, for weeding and deadheading and Saturday, Oct. 14, for end of the season clean-up.

Please contact Shelley Whitehead at 892-0719.

## Southbound I-75 rest area...

Help plant flowers at the southbound

I-75 rest area Saturday, May 27.

Planting begins when the flowers arrive at 8 a.m. — the majority of which are annuals, says Gloria Schuler, project chairman.

Volunteers keep planting until all the flowers are in "and the rest area looks great for the southbound holiday traffic on Monday."

Because the Michigan Department of Transportation supplies a pizza lunch, Schuler would like volunteers to call her at 797-0100 or e-mail globobarama@excite.com for a count.

This project earns trainees MSUE-directed hours.

## Saginaw County Rail Trail...

Aileen Cowan is seeking help for clean-up and weed patrol for the 2006 season.

Contact her at 865-8784 or scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net. The Rail Trail earns trainees MSUE-directed hours.

## Fall seminar...

Anne Birkam is seeking help to promote SVMGA's annual fall seminar, An Autumn Affair for Gardeners.

Although the Chesaning Garden Walk has been cancelled, Birkam needs volunteers for the Frankenmuth Garden Walk in June — to answer questions and hand out brochures.

Call her at 754-7090 or e-mail abirkam@netzero.net.

## Welcome new members...

The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association has three new members. They are:

- **Teresa Harrison**, a Master Gardener Trainee, of 2149 Tittabawssee, Hemlock, 48626; phone, (989) 642-8895; e-mail: tkh25@joimail.com.

- **Joy Walter**, Master Gardener Trainee, of 1830 Wennonah Lane, Saginaw 48638; phone, 792-0553; e-mail joy\_walter@chartermi.net

- **Phyllis Shlien**, Master Gardener Trainee, of 4647 N. Hemlock Rd. Hemlock 48626; phone: 642-6656; e-mail: pshlien@yahoo.com.

There are now 158 members.

## Minutes of the April 26, 2006 meeting

Grey Gitzen welcomed 85 members to the Andersen Enrichment Center.

Elaine Rappley moved that the minutes of the March 2006 meeting be approved; Bob Schust seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jan O'Dell read the following treasurer's report:

Balance of last report	\$7,975.18
Deposits 3/22/06 to 4/25/06	\$219.00
Expenses same period	\$1,300.00
Balance as of 4/25/06	\$6,894.18
Designated fall seminar funds	\$2,638.12

As of 4/25/06 we have 157 paid members, with 1 new member joining this evening.

Karen Tilden moved that the treasurer's report be approved; Bob Gubbins seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Nancy Hales attended the container planting at Dave Sommer's greenhouse last Saturday. She said it was a wonderful opportunity and encouraged everyone to go.

He will be doing this again for the next two to three weeks. His phone number is 777-1880. You can bring your own container or buy one from him.

Hales also has applications for project money. Get one soon since the money is going fast.

Hales mentioned that hours worked at home do not count as volunteer hours and that hours not approved as a project by the Master Gardener Coordinator (for example, at your church) do not count as full hours but half hours.

Anyone whose project seems to be in limbo should see Grey Gitzen.

Hales had a new member list available.

There were several volunteer opportunities available.

Jane Chard talked about volunteering at Health Source of Saginaw. She had a sign-up sheet.

Deb Keller had a sign-up sheet for Playscape (which is where the plant exchange will be next month).

Susan Lawcock talked about the Bridgeport Historical Society's oppor-

tunities at the museum.

Sue Stemler mentioned that she would have a sign-up sheet next month (after the project is approved) for work at the new headquarters of the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra. It is located at the old Chamber of Commerce building on South Washington.

Nancy Cotcamp reminded members to vote next Tuesday.

Marilyn Karpicke asked members to save the lids of Coffemate containers. They need 125 for horticultural therapy.

Gitzen mentioned that the project for the Michigan Military Museum in Frankenmuth was approved.

He also said Terry Sangster would like someone to design and set up landscaping around the federal building. Anyone interested should see Gitzen at the break.

Kathy Lewis had tickets available for a Choral Society fund-raiser. You spend \$18 for a \$20 coupon at Abele's Greenhouses.

Gitzen said that anyone not receiving The Grapevine should see Nancy Hales.

Elizabeth Williams had notebooks available for new members.

Amy Fitkin had several sign-up sheets for classes and field trips: two tours of Fred Case's gardens; two trough-making workshops; and field trips to Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Great Lakes Nursery on Sunday, June 4, Frederick Meijer Gardens on Saturday, June 17, Beal Botanical Gardens and Specialty Growers on Saturday, July 8 and Sutton's Bay on Saturday, July 29.

Shirley McNier had several logo wear items available. You can pay by cash or check.

Grey Gitzen passed out the Master Gardener volunteer pins for those who have earned them.

Aileen Cowan had sign-up sheets available for Master Gardeners to answer questions on certain days at the Farmer's Market.

She also had a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work at Hidden Harvest Cooks at Horizon Conference Center doing surveys on Monday, May 1.

Cowan also is seeking volunteers to help clean up at the eye park at the rail trail. Volunteers can come at their convenience.

She would like to see it in good shape by Memorial Day. Volunteers are needed

throughout the season for maintenance.

Anne Birkam had sign-up sheets for members interested in handing out brochures at area garden walks in June, at the Roesser Park plant sale on May 6, and to area garden centers.

Members also may volunteer to work at the Chesaning Garden Walk; the coordinator of the walk is looking for volunteers to be at the gardens and answer questions.

Gitzen told members they will be getting a postcard within the first two weeks of May regarding the state Master Gardener Volunteer Summer Conference in June.

The postcard will tell members how to get an application to sign-up for the conference.

He will bring copies of the application to the next meeting. The conference will begin at 5 p.m. Sunday, June 18, and run to 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 21. The dinner Monday, June 19, is optional.

Patti Decker mentioned that there will be planting dates at the Saginaw Children's Zoo on Saturday, May 6, from 8:30 a.m. to noon and from 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 20.

Anyone interested in volunteering at the zoo can sign-up to receive e-mails from her.

Becky Geidans asked for volunteers to sign-up for refreshments for the May, June and July meetings.

After refreshments members enjoyed a very informative presentation about diagnostics for Master Gardeners by Genesee County Master Gardener Coordinator Terry McLean.

Thanks go to Joyce Schultz for donating the hummingbird feeder, Kathy Morley for donating the ladybug on a stick, Marilyn Karpicke for donating the flowers in a watering can and Karen Tilden for donating the butterfly plant stick for the monthly drawing.

Congratulations to Lynn Hauck for winning the flowers in a watering can; Kathy Berger, the hummingbird feeder; Rosemary Tinney, the butterfly plant stick; and Nancy Hales, the ladybird on a stick.

*Submitted by Anne Birkam, secretary*

# AN AUTUMN AFFAIR FOR GARDENERS

*8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m. Saturday, October 7, 2006*

*Saginaw Valley State University, Curtis Hall, University Center, MI*

The Saginaw Valley Master Gardener Association says don't give up on gardening just because the leaves turn color! Instead, please attend our third annual fall seminar. Here's what the day includes:

- **Keynote speaker Bill Cullina**, author and nursery manager of the New England Wildflower Society's Garden in the Woods in Massachusetts, opens the session with **"What the Heck's Gonna Grow There!!! Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines for Challenging Situations,"** looking at their aesthetic allure and ecological appropriateness. Cullina closes the seminar with **"Beyond Black-Eyed Susans and Border Phlox: Exceptional Native Perennials for Creative Gardening,"** by profiling outstanding native perennials yet to be discovered by the gardening public.
- **Sally Shepardson**, Advanced Master Gardener, offers **"Environmentally Sound Gardening and Integrated Pest Management."** Learn how common cultivation techniques and fertilizer/pesticide use impacts the environment along with practical solutions for treating problems in your own yard.
- **Charles Martin**, Dow Gardens horticulturist, discusses **"Green Pollution: Invasive Plants in Michigan,"** including problem plants for native landscapes, that create more maintenance for busy gardeners.
- Early registration \$50, including box lunch/snacks, by **Friday, Sept. 15; \$55 after.** Vendors, checks/cash. Master Gardeners earn 4 education hours. Call Judy Henning, (989) 799-4136 or Aileen Cowan, (989) 865-8784 or e-mail [judrich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judrich@sbcglobal.net) or [scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net](mailto:scratchcreations@worldnet.att.net). Conference brochures: <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/mastergardener/saginaw/>

## REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (conference purposes only) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if you are a Master Gardener. Please choose a lunch entrée (chips, fruit cup, cookie, drink included):

Turkey and roast beef on croissant, or  Vegetable pita

Mail check (\$50 for each person attending, payable to **SVMGA**) to SVMGA Treasurer Jan O'Dell, 5122 Hickory Court, Saginaw, MI 48603. **No refunds; substitutes accepted.** SVSU is located between Saginaw & Bay City on M-84, near I-75.

## New crop of gardening books arrive

To create a beautiful - or productive - garden, you need two things: inspiration and practical knowledge.

So garden books tend to be divided between the gorgeous and the pragmatic.

But the cream of the latest crop combine both elements.

PBS's Michael Weishan has penned "**The Victory Garden Companion**" (with Laurie Donnelly) presenting a potpourri of landscape-planning and design tips. This "selective sampler of good gardening advice" stresses fundamentals — from choosing and planting the best shrubs or trees to how to lay a brick patio. Weishan's recommendations are practical and straightforward; he anticipates readers' questions - and potential problems - and answers them in a friendly, useful manner.

Each of the nine chapters ends with an "inspired garden," ranging from the historic - Colonial Williamsburg and Edith Wharton's The Mount - to excellent examples of specialty public.

"**Outside the Not So Big House**" emphasizes that a landscape doesn't exist on its own. Neither does the most impressive house.

Homeowners need to think in terms of "the transitions and connections between

the inside of a house and the outside," says architect Sarah Susanka.

This beautiful book combines the best qualities of coffee-table attractiveness and excellent advice. It pairs Susanka - author of previous "Not So Big House" books, and noted landscape and garden designer Julie Moir Messervy.

The duo explain and illustrate their ideas through visits to 20 homes around the country — among them an 80-year-old house on a wooded lot near Boston, an adobe house in Santa Fe that matches its ecosystem, and a tiny structure perched on a hill in San Francisco.

As its name suggests, "**The Encyclopedia of Garden Design & Structure**" takes a less personal, more encompassing view of landscaping.

Garden photographer-writer Derek Fell breaks down planning or renovating a landscape into projects. Then he provides, through more than 800 gorgeous photos, as well as brief descriptions, ideas to expand your outdoor living.

By the time you reach the end, the only question will be: Which part of the landscape to tackle first?

*Story by Judy Lowe*

## 45 new plants...

*Continues from Page 2*

- soft pink flower with purple center.
- Papaver Scarlt O'hra, 12-14" tall, large, red ruffled flower.
- Papaver Fany Feathers, pink flower, large leaf with ruffled edge.
- Peony Tree Shimanishiki, pink flowers.
- Peony Tree Kinkaku, 4-5" orange flowers.
- Potentilla Monarch Velvet, dark red flower, 2' tall.
- Rodgersia Chocolatewings, foliage changes as weather warms.
- Sedum Black Jack, purple-black foliage, pink flowers.
- Sidalcea Candygirl, miniature hollyhock, 2' tall, pink flowers with white centers.
- Veronica Blue Carpet, flowers more if deadheaded, purple flower.
- Veronica Fairytale, pink flower, 16" tall, deep red stamen.
- Verbascum Sunshine Spires, 24" tall, yellow flower, hummingbirds will love it.

## Upcoming 2006 programs

- 5/24 — Garden tour and plant exchange at Saginaw Township Playscape
- 6/4 — Tour Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Great Lakes Roses
- 6/17 — Tour Frederik Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids
- 6/28 — Tour of Melva Bond's Buena Vista Township garden
- 7/8 — Tour Beal Education Gardens in East Lansing, Specialty Growers in Howell
- 7/26 — Tour of Deborah Keller's Thomas Township garden
- 7/29 — Tour Bellwether Gardens, Suttons Bay; Dr. Joe Blair's garden, Children's Gardens, Farmers Market wineries in Traverse City (possible overnight trip)
- 8/23 — Tour of Mark Torregrossa's Weather Garden
- 9/20 — Fall plant exchange at Ruth Sny's Saginaw Township garden
- 9/27 — George Papadellis of Telly's Greenhouse, Troy, "Ground Covers"
- 10/7 — "An Autumn Affair for Gardeners," annual seminar with Bill Cullina, author and plant propagator; Chuck Martin, Dow Gardens horticulturist; and Sally Shepardson, Advanced Master Gardener, Saginaw Valley State University, Curtis Hall.
- 10/25 — Bob Kuszmaul, "Propagation of Shrubs"
- 11/15 — Nancy Lindley of Great Lakes Roses, "Winter Hardy Roses"
- 12/6 — Annual Christmas potluck

Meetings from January to April and September to December are at the Andersen Enrichment Center. Meetings in May through August are at members' homes or other garden sites. For field trips, call Amy Fitkin, 781-1670.